

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**Please cancel claims 1-24.**

25. (original): A method for modifying a target protein or peptide, comprising allowing an enzyme, which is capable of deamidating amido groups in target proteins and peptides by directly acting upon said amido groups without cutting peptide bonds and without cross-linking said target proteins or peptides, to act on said target protein or peptide.

26. (original): The method of Claim 25, wherein said target protein or peptide to be modified is derived from a plant or animal such that the functionality of said protein or peptide is improved.

27. (original): The method of Claim 25, wherein said target protein or peptide to be modified is derived from food such that the functionality of said food is improved.

28. (original): The method of Claim 25, wherein said target protein or peptide is contained in a crude material such that the extraction efficiency of said target protein or peptide is improved.

29. (original): The method of Claim 25, which further comprises the step of allowing a transglutaminase to act on said target protein or peptide.

30. (original): The method of Claim 29, wherein said enzyme is allowed to act on said target protein or peptide before said transglutaminase is allowed to act on said target protein or peptide.

31. (original): The method of Claim 29, wherein said transglutaminase is allowed to act on the target protein or peptide before said enzyme is allowed to act on said target protein or peptide.

32. (original): The method of Claim 29, wherein said enzyme and said transglutaminase are allowed to act on said target protein or peptide at the same time.

33. (original): The method of Claim 25, which further comprises the step of allowing a protease and a glutaminase to act on said target protein or peptide.

34. (original): The method of Claim 25, wherein said target protein has a molecular weight of 5,000, or more.